

THE ROCK

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Joint Munitions Command Established



Maj. Gen. McManus (left) receives a framed copy of the orders establishing JMC from CSM Perry K. Washington, command sergeant major of JMC.

The provisional stand-up of the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command (JMC) was celebrated on Jan. 17 at a ceremony held on Rock Island Arsenal, site of the new command's headquarters.

JMC will carry on the mission formerly performed by the U.S. Army Operations Support Command (OSC). Maj. Gen. Wade H. McManus Jr., commanding general of OSC, will continue as JMC's commanding general. The establishment of JMC will not result in a change in employment levels or grade structures, and will not lead to any physical relocations of employees.

While they may not relocate physically, employees who work at JMC Headquarters will find themselves in a new "G-staff" organizational structure patterned on the structure of military staffs in the field. Having a "G" structure in place will better align JMC with the warfighting commands that are its primary customers; improve internal communications; and make it easier for customers to contact the command.

JMC will serve as the Department of Defense's field operating agency for the Single Manager for Conventional Ammunition mission. As such, the command will manage the production, storage, issue

and demilitarization of conventional ammunition for all U.S. military services.

To meet the needs of the transformed fighting forces of the 21st century, JMC is developing and modernizing systems that will provide theater and field commanders with accurate, up-to-the-minute information on the status of munitions; make the most effective use possible of the existing ammunition stockpile; and maximize the capabilities and cost effectiveness of munitions production facilities.

Through its Army Field Support Command (AFSC) component, JMC serves as a platform for projecting logistics power anywhere in the world. AFSC maintains prepositioned stocks of weapons and equipment stored at land-based sites around the world and aboard ships. As the "face to the field" for logistics, AFSC provides direct support to combat units deployed to the front lines, and operates sites such as Logistics Support Elements (LSEs) near forward areas.

JMC will work closely with the Program Executive Office for Ammunition (PEO-Ammo) at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., in carrying out the complex mission of supplying the best possible ammunition to warfighters. PEO-Ammo will take the lead in areas such as research and development, acquisition strategy, and budget planning, while JMC will take the lead in the mission areas identified above. In all areas, the two organizations will coordinate plans and actions to assure that customer requirements are met in a timely, cost-effective manner.

In remarks delivered at the stand-up ceremony, Maj. Gen. McManus described JMC as "a new command with a familiar mission that's going to be done in a whole new way."

"The Joint Munitions Command needs to be a forward-thinking, goal-oriented organization with a clear vision, a purposeful strategy and shared values," Maj. Gen. McManus said. "We need to

Story continued on page 3



Commander's Column

This year has already been extremely busy! We have taken another step towards a long-term future for the Arsenal by continuing our planning efforts (see story page 5). We are

working closely with our new headquarters, TACOM, in Warren, Michigan, and with our Ground System Industrial Enterprise (GSIE) partners right here on the island to help ensure our future. We were also recognized by the Iowa Army National Guard for the superb effort of our paint crew and other arsenal personnel to paint 160 vehicles on time and at cost (see story page 3). We also witnessed the stand up of the Joint Munitions Command.

We have moved forward with Lean Manufacturing as we remain focused and vigilant on continuous improvements. We had three very productive days during the week of February 18 where we conducted our first value stream mapping (see story page 5).

We have worked to improve communications across the island with our consolidated weekly Arsenal Announcements, better use of the CCTV/IPTV system, and our new RIA-ASK-THE-CO e-mail hotline.

However, as with all years, we have already had some serious challenges. On January 16 we had to distribute Reduction In Force (RIF) letters to 75 employees. These included 15 separations. The letters were the result of the A-76 competition in Installation Technology (IT). Fortunately, in the last round of letters there were no separations! I want to thank the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Employee Assistance Program personnel, union representatives, and the Chaplain for their support and counseling for all affected personnel – employees and supervisors. And I also want to thank the leadership and employees of the IT directorate for their true professionalism and their continued work despite this RIF.

However, it is now important that we move forward and welcome our new partner, TDF Corporation, Inc., as they transition to provide many of our information technology services. I ask for everyone's support to make this transition as smooth as possible and invisible for all of our IT customers.

This year will continue have its rewards and challenges. But I am confident that as we continue to work together to satisfy our customers and ensure our future, we will see many more rewards.

Never forget that our diverse manufacturing capability is unmatched by any other government owned facility or private sector facility. Our industrial expertise, technical proficiency, and infrastructure are of the highest caliber. Our motivated and productive workforce is among the best. Other Army installations benchmark several of our base operations services. Rock Island Arsenal is an award-winning installation recognized for its exceptional support to our military and active community involvement. Together we will continue to show our armed forces and our nation that utilizing Rock Island Arsenal is good business.

We are all aware of the events unfolding in the Middle East, and we all know that we are here to be an instrumental force in support of our men and women in uniform. We all pray for peace, but I also know that we are all ready to do whatever will be needed in the days and months to come to support our country should we be called to do so. Our Army Community Services folks are doing a wonderful job reaching out to local families and loved ones of deployed military and civilian personnel through our Waiting Family Support Group (see story page 11). There is also information on that page that tells you how you can help our troops.

Please continue to be safe at work, at home, and when traveling. Commuting to and from the Arsenal is going to be a challenge this year with all of the bridge construction in the area (see page 8). Drive defensively.

Remember, if you have any questions for me, send them to RIA-ASK-THE CO. The answers to your questions are posted in Outlook, in the RIA Public Folders then, all public folders then, under Commander's Answers.

JMC, *continued from page one*

align ourselves so that we are combat-ready, and fully prepared to meet the complex challenges that are sure to present themselves in the future.”

Maj. Gen. McManus stated that JMC must focus on four “vectors” as it performs its mission: Readiness reporting; the centralized management of ammunition; planning for the future of the industrial base; and assuring the success of the “ammunition

enterprise” with PEO-Ammo and other partners in the public and private sectors.

“We have some important and difficult tasks ahead of us, and we take them on without reservation,” Maj. Gen. McManus said.

“We know that there’s a lot at stake and that a lot of people are counting on us,” he concluded. “We cannot fail, and we will not fail.”

- Paul Levesque, JMC Public Affairs

Iowa Army National Guard presents award to RIA

Brig. Gen. Mark Zirkelbach, Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Army National Guard, presented an award for the arsenal’s exceptional support and service for an urgent guard project to the paint crew from Rock Island Arsenal during a ceremony in the industrial complex on January 16.

The arsenal received the urgent request in late November to paint 160 National Guard vehicles with a chemical agent resistant paint. Completion was required in less than 60 days in order to secure the unit’s readiness posture. The first vehicles arrived at the arsenal on November 25. During the first week of December RIA began painting vehicles 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The deadline was January 10. RIA finished the



The arsenal paint crew presented Brig. Gen. Zirkelbach with this photograph signed and framed.

project on January 3, 40 days after the first vehicles rolled onto the arsenal.

Zirkelbach thanked the paint crew and the entire arsenal team for their outstanding support to the Iowa Army National Guard. He stated, “Your fine efforts will ensure that we are at complete readiness should we be called to deploy at any time in the near future.”

Zirkelbach presented the arsenal with a plaque that read, “For providing outstanding support and superior quality work in painting Iowa Army National Guard equipment.” It was signed by Maj. Gen. Ron Dardis, Adjutant General of the Iowa Army National Guard. Zirkelbach and his staff also went on a tour of the arsenal manufacturing complex.

THE ROCK

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Rock Island Arsenal

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Embracing the Needs of Others

Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign

CFC Ceremony celebrates \$490,390 raised for charities

In a ceremony held on Dec. 19 in the Baylor Conference Room on Arsenal Island Col. Gene E. King, Chief of Staff of the Joint Munitions Command, acting for Maj. Gen. Wade H. McManus, Jr., Honorary Chair of the Illowa Bi-State CFC, presented the annual CFC awards.

Col. King stated, "Maj. Gen. McManus is very proud of what you accomplished this year and he sends his congratulations, and I certainly join him in that."

The organizational awards are given in two divisions, one for large organization of over 750 employees and one for small organizations of under 750 employees. The awards are determined by the year's statistics and by votes from the Local Federal Coordinating Committee, comprised of representatives of the major federal organizations in the campaign area.

Col. King presented the Susi Arnold Memorial Award for the Highest Percentage Participation to:

Large organization – Headquarters, U.S. Army Operations Support Command (OSC) / U.S. Army Field Support Command (FSC) - 52% participation.

Small organization – Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Rock Island - 53% participation.

The Highest Average Gift awards were:

Large organization – OSC / FSC Headquarters - \$206.

Small organization – Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, - \$172.

Col. King gave Col. William J. Bayles, Commander Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the prestigious 2002 Leadership Award for his visible leadership and support of the CFC in his organization. The Corps of Engineers also won the 2002 Most Innovative Campaign Award for their varied and creative CFC events, including their Chili Cook-Off and CFC Auction.

Commanding General Coins and Two-Star Notes signed by Maj. Gen. McManus were presented to the following members of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee: Jill Albert,

United Way of the Quad Cities Area; Diane Block, TACOM-Rock Island; Molly Condon, DFAS-Rock Island; Cindy DeKeukeleire, federal union representative; Joy Deporter, FSC Headquarters; Tina Grove, OSC Headquarters; Richard Jayne, OSC Headquarters; Mark Kane, Corps of Engineers; Nancy Kapheim, OSC Headquarters; Hollie Kensinger, Pam Lagoyiannis, TACOM-Rock Island; Hollie Kensinger, Rock Island Arsenal; Jody Schmitz, Corps of Engineers; Cheryl Michel, Rock Island Arsenal; Liane Shanahan, DFAS-Rock Island; and Gale Smith, Rock Island Arsenal.

Col. King also presented Commanding General Coins and Two-Star Notes to the following Loaned Executives and Two Star Notes to the LE's supervisors (shown in parentheses): Capt Dave Adams, OSC Headquarters (Lt. Col. Dennis Meyer); Diana DeMeyer, Rock Island Arsenal; Bob Drollsbaugh, TACOM-Rock Island (Kathy Showalter); George Teague, OSC Headquarters (Mark Dorr); Ignacio Nevarez, TACOM-Rock Island (Darrell Bast). Toni Helman, OSC Headquarters, also received a Commander's Coin and Two Star Note because of her creation and updateing of the cfc website – www.illowacfc.org.

Col. King concluded the ceremony by stating, "In the end, we're all winners when it comes to CFC, because this campaign is helping to build a better community and a better world for all of us!"

Local charities can apply to be in the 2003 Illowa Bi-State CFC by contacting Richard Jayne at 782-6635, jayner@osc.army.mil or Rick Widdell at 355-4310. Information and specifics on requirements can be found on the website at www.illowacfc.org. Additional information can be found on the OPM CFC webpage at www.opm.gov/cfc.

Arsenal leaders step towards the future

On January 9 a diverse group including the Rock Island Arsenal Commander, the Deputy to the Commander, arsenal directors and office chiefs, union leadership, and representatives from the Joint Munitions Command, TACOM-Rock Island and SBCCOM-Rock Island held the second strategic planning session for Rock Island Arsenal.

"I am very pleased with the progress that we have made here today. We are moving on a journey that will help ensure our long term survival," said Col. Mike Mullins, Commander of Rock Island Arsenal.

The group created a new vision - **"Full service provider to the 21st century war fighter."**

They also conducted an analysis of the arsenal's mission, and established goals and objectives to form the foundation of RIA's strategic business plan. The group also developed steps that will allow RIA to become a modern, flexible, responsive "Arsenal of the Future." Both manufacturing and garrison responsibilities were evaluated and included in the plan.

The group also generated the mission statement:

"Support the National Defense Strategy with World-Class Products and Services through: Development /

Prototyping, Manufacturing, Integration, Testing, Logistics Support and Base Operations Support."

This highlights RIA's value to the Department of Defense and the arsenal's numerous and varied capabilities.

To achieve this vision and execute this mission, RIA will execute the following goals:

- Transform RIA to meet the needs of the legacy, interim, and objective forces, and their support and services structures.
- Be a technologically advanced, value-added, fully integrated, responsive manufacturing and logistics center.
- Pursue internal and external reform initiatives to remain financially competitive.
- Create a diverse, trained, and ready workforce capable of meeting 21st century national defense strategy.
- Provide cost competitive Base Operations support to the customer.

Action plans to accomplish these goals are currently being developed so that everyone at RIA can move towards the common vision.

- Jim Uribe and Bob Berk

LEAN at Rock Island Arsenal

On February 18, 19 and 20, a Rock Island Arsenal team of 27 varied and diverse personnel from the shop floor to senior management conducted the first Value Stream Mapping and Analysis in the War Room of building 210. As a result, a series of rapid improvement events will begin in March and continue on an aggressive schedule. The first initiatives involve the Forward Repair System. This system repairs battle damaged heavy combat systems on site on the battlefield. The Rock Island Arsenal Industrial Complex manufactures parts of the system and completes the final assembly so that they are ready to be delivered to the soldier in the field.

The rapid improvement events will focus on streamlining direct and indirect labor, decreasing floor space, creating tool load work cells and improving the production process flow. The team set an ambitious goal of improving the delivery schedule in fiscal year 2004 by 40% and by 70% in fiscal year 2005.

Rock Island Arsenal is also integrating the lean thinking efforts with its current quality initiatives, Six Sigma and IOS 9000.

The Value Stream Mapping and Analysis was just another step towards Lean implementation at the arsenal. In November 2002 the arsenal formed a Lean

Implementation Team consisting of members from Production Control, Methods and Standards, Logistics, and Machining. The team has been training, planning, and preparing for full Lean Implementation. Watch for Lean articles in each edition of THE ROCK.

For more information on Lean, go to following website: www.amc.army.mil/LEAN/default.html.



Participants work hard during the Value Stream Analysis process where they are developing the Action Plan for the Forward Repair System.

- Leonard Davidson

RIA Commissary wins National Award

Proctor and Gamble gave the Rock Island Arsenal Commissary the Grand Prize in 2002 Proctor and Gamble Special Olympics promotion during a ceremony in the commissary on December 6.

According to Patty Umana, Proctor and Gamble spokesperson, "This was a marvelous achievement for a commissary of this size! I congratulate everyone for this tremendous accomplishment."

The commissaries were judged on total cases displayed, creativity of the Special Olympics tie-in, and the overall effort and quality of the campaign. To win, the RIA commissary displayed 1,499 cases of Proctor and Gamble products. The largest display was a massive 80 foot display.

Portions of all of the sales during this promotion were donated to the Special Olympics by Proctor and Gamble.



Commissary Team proudly displays the award that they received from Proctor and Gamble

Naval Reserve names top sailors

The Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Rock Island named its top reserve sailors for 2002. Petty Officer 1st Class Laurie E. Westerdale, 31, was named "Reserve Sailor of the Year" and Constructionman Gary T. Rovinski, 41, was named "Reserve Blue Jacket of the Year." Westerdale is attached to the Naval Reserve Amphibious Construction Battalion One - Detachment 113. Rovinski is attached to the Naval Reserve Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 25 -Detachment 0225.

Lt. Scott A. Kuykendall, commanding officer of the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Rock Island, made the announcement. "Petty Officer Westerdale and Seaman Rovinski are model sailors, they have worked long and hard and are very deserving of this recognition," said Lt. Kuykendall.

Petty Officer Westerdale earned this honor through her sustained superior performance to prepare the

Detachment for mobilization readiness. She served as a key instructor and held various leadership positions.

Constructionman Rovinski earned this honor through his outstanding performance administering his unit's evaluation reporting program and for providing model leadership by rapidly achieving mobilization readiness. He also served as a weapons qualification coach for the Battalion.

"I hope this helps me advance to Chief Petty Officer," said Westerdale. She attributes her success to her willingness to work hard and take on responsibility. A patriotic sailor, she said "If called, I am ready to defend my country."

Constructionman Rovinski attributes his success to hard work and his desire to help others. "The Navy provides me numerous opportunities for personal growth educationally, mentally, and physically," he said.

- Dan Carlson, JMC Public Affairs



50th Anniversary of the Korean War 1950 - 1953

Quad Cities Activities

The Quad Cities is planning multiple events in April to honor the forgotten heroes of the Korean War.

The events will start with a dance at the Col Ballroom the evening of April 25. On April 26 there will be a parade in Davenport. The Grand Marshal for the parade will be retired Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Cecil Hutson who is the last actively serving Korean War veteran. He retired from active military duty in April 1996. The parade will include military bands, active and reserve military units, equipment from the Rock Island Arsenal, and numerous Veterans groups. School bands, other marchers, and distinguished individuals have also been invited to participate.

Following the parade there will be a ceremony and entertainment program at Davenport's LeClaire Park. The ceremony will include the presentation the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal and Certificate of Appreciation to the next of kin/families of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines that

made the ultimate sacrifice during the war. Families need to contact the committee members listed below if they want to participate.

In a related event, several of the Medal of Honor recipients will be traveling to the Veterans' Hospital in Iowa City to visit fellow veterans who are being treated there. Also, on April 25 there will be a dedication of a Medal of Honor stone at the National Cemetery. Several Medal of Honors winners are expected to travel to the Quad Cities for the dedication and to attend the Korean War Anniversary celebrations.

If you would like to help honor these "Forgotten Heroes of a Forgotten War" or you would like information on any of the events contact the following members of the Korean War 50th Anniversary Committee: Arthur J. Heyderman 359-4186, Dennis Winegar 782-3717, Sonja Trowbridge 782-5510, or Richard Worthy 782-9024. More information can be found on the web at www.qcsalutes.com.

RIA Quarterly Quality Awards - 4th 02, 1st 03

Rock Island Arsenal awards the Commander's Quality Excellence Award each quarters. The winners for the fourth quarter FY 2002 were the Engineering Technicians from the Directorate of Public Works: Merlin Jones, Merlin Arsensdorff, and John Stolenberg. This team performed an audit of all contracted custodial space and remeasured office space to verify the amount of contractual services. Through the diligent efforts of this team, a significant amount of square footage was reduced for custodial services and approximately \$311,788 in cost saving for the custodial service contract.



The first quarter, FY 2003 award winners were from the Engineering Services Directorate. Tom Gizicki, David Mehuys, Robert Barth, and Ronald Lund of the Radiation Lab demonstrated a high degree of ingenuity to establish the Army Contaminated Equipment Retrograde Facility in Building 170. With the establishment of this new facility, a significant cost saving will be realized by the Army for the disposal and recycling of low-level radioactive waste.

Col. Mullins gave each winning team member an individual certificate and a lapel pin at the Arsenal Recall. In addition, each team received a traveling plaque to display in their work area along with their team photo.

Arsenal employee bikes to work all year

Does avoiding the traffic hassles on Rodman Avenue, saving on gasoline costs, being able to park indoors, and getting some exercise appeal to you? If so, you might want to do what Denny DeSmet of Rock Island Arsenal does - ride your bicycle to work year-round.

Denny first started riding to work in 1973. At the time he was in the Air Force and found that traffic was so bad he could get home quicker and easier on his bike. Denny says, "My rules are that if it's not wet out when its time to go to work and it's above minus five degrees I take my bike."

He rides five miles one-way to work from his home in Rock Island. The ride takes him 20 to 25 minutes depending on the strength and direction of the wind. On his way home he likes to take the 8-mile scenic route by

way of Sunset Marina. He gets plenty of fresh air and exercise in addition to being able to eat just about anything he wants without gaining weight.

Denny enjoys riding his bike so much it's his primary mode of transportation. He does own a truck, but he only uses it as backup. In two years he has driven it less than 5,000 miles. He says

maintenance on the bike is pretty inexpensive compared to a vehicle, and there are no fuel costs.

Denny is now building bikes. He has built two tandems, a two wheel recumbent, a three wheel recumbent, and a three-wheel handcycle in addition to towable trailers.

There are some negatives to bike riding.

Sometimes drivers do not see you, and there are always the chances of getting mugged, crashing, or

being attacked by dogs. However, Denny says in spite of the weather and other perils that go with riding his bike to work "there is nothing finer than riding around traffic jams."

Editor's note: With construction on many of the Quad Cities bridges this spring and summer, perhaps more of us should follow Denny's example.



There will be specific information about the upcoming bridges issue in the April edition of THE ROCK. You can also find information at the Bi-State Regional Commission website at www.bi-state-ia-il.org/ser/tra/brn.shyml under Bridge Restriction Notices.

Logistics Modernization Program at RIA

The Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) is an Army Material Command (AMC) initiative to modernize business systems and provide a more integrated, flexible, and responsive system that will provide increased support to the field.

AMC selected Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) to modernize AMC business systems and provide continued service support over a ten-year period. The intent is to provide an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, which provides business process integration and real-time data support.

SAP is the commercial software selected for the ERP system. SAP is a Windows based software system, which allows for incorporating best business practices.

Rock Island Arsenal is benefiting from the core AMC contract, and also has a contract task order to incorporate many of RIA site-specific work processes and systems.

Implementation has begun at U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command (CECOM) since CECOM was chosen as the first deployment site. RIA will deploy in conjunction with other Tank Armaments and Automotive Command organizations after CECOM.

Information on the program can be found on the web at <http://www.wlmp.com>.

RIA/TACOM Success Stories - the GELONS mount

Device currently in use in Afghanistan

Sergeant First Class Dennis Woods of the 82nd Airborne, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, came up with an idea to create a mount that would allow soldiers to attach existing and future night weapon sights, laser aimers, and thermal weapons sights to towed howitzers and 120-mm mortars.

This ability would greatly enhance the nighttime warfare capabilities of the soldiers by turning the howitzers and mortars into direct fire weapons. SFC Woods manufactured a rough concept in his garage, using the front handguard rail of a rifle, a new dovetail mount and a bicycle seat clamp.

The concept came to the Tank Armaments and Automotive Command (TACOM), Rock Island, through a soldier suggestion program. TACOM personnel immediately saw the value of the device and worked to procure funding, and plan and manage the program.

TACOM brought the concept to Rock Island Arsenal and asked them to produce a prototype quickly. RIA immediately formed the GELONS IPT. The team was comprised of members of Product Development Team, the Prototype Planning Team, and the Prototype Team. Working together, they created and manufactured six prototypes in just seven days.

The Product Development Team took SFC Woods' rough concept and reverse engineered it to create a manufacturable assembly within a day and a half. At the same time, the Product Development Team members were working with the Prototype Planning Team to create the necessary manufacturing processes, determining what materials would be required for production, and procuring those required materials. Next, the Prototype Team manufactured all of the necessary parts, over 20, and assembled the GELONS mount. The machining required tolerances of less than a thousandth of an inch, a very tight tolerance. All of this was accomplished in one week.

The Gun Electronic Laying Optical Night Sight (GELONS) mount was subsequently tested at Aberdeen Proving Ground with great success. Ten rounds were fired at a distance of 1,000 meters and all hit a target that was only two meters in diameter. This was exceptional accuracy for this type of weapons system!



The inventor of the GELONS holds the mount manufacutred at RIA in his left hand.

As a result of this success, Rock Island Arsenal received two subsequent high priority orders in support of current operations.

In a recent article in Field Artillery magazine (November-December 2002), now Master Sergeant Woods states that the 319th AFAR is curently using the GELONS mount on its 105-mm howitzers and 120-mm mortars in Afghanistan.

The GELONS mount has recently received received local media attention in stories on KWQC and WQAD.





Military chooses local blood center as military hub

Give at the island blood drives on Fridays

With the prospect of war with Iraq, Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) has been selected as one of six “hub centers” to supplement the military’s blood supply if additional blood is needed. If the military requests the blood, the center will be notified to ship blood directly to a designated military location.

Because of this situation, the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center wants to increase the available blood on its shelves from a normal 4 to 5-day supply to an 8-day supply. By increasing the supply, they will be able to continue to provide blood for patients in the local Quad Cities area, as well as be prepared to support the men and women who are serving our country.

The selection as a hub center is a result of an agreement between the United States Department of Defense and America’s Blood Centers, of which MVRBC is a member. Our community is honored to have been selected.

Employees on Arsenal Island can donate blood right on the island. The island Blood Drive occurs most Fridays from 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Naval Reserve Center. The goal is 25 units of blood each week. Those 25 units help 75 patients weekly.

Donation takes a short period of time and every donor is mailed a free post-donation cholesterol screening. Donors can give every 56 days.

You can make an appointment by calling the Blood Center at 359-5401 or by logging on to www.bloodcenter.org.

Check your union agreement to determine if you are eligible for blood leave.

MWR website: www.riamwr.com

Installation Financial Readiness Center provides assistance

The Financial Readiness Center (FRC) of Rock Island Arsenal’s Army Community Service (ACS) is here to help you. They are located in building 110, 1st floor, in the southeast wing. They may be contacted by calling (309) 782-0815 or via email: cookj2@ria.army.mil.

While FRC provides information and advice on financial and tax matters, clients are responsible for making their own decisions. Before making any financial commitment, FRC advises that you consult the appropriate professional adviser.

Here is a brief example of the types of information FRC can provide:

New for 2003 is a Tax Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions for Low and Mid-Income Individuals and Families. New for Tax Year 2002 (Filing by April 2003) is the Form 8880 to claim a tax credit for individuals and families who contributed retirement monies to Traditional IRA’s, Roth IRA’s or employer based 401k’s.

When visiting the FRC, military and civilian personnel are reminded to account for their duty time with their supervisors.

Preferred Hotel Program

The Preferred Hotel Program is a new program at Rock Island Arsenal. The purposes are to overcome the lack of transient quarters, to provide quality hotels for PCS and TDY travelers at the government rate, and to provide income for MWR programs at the arsenal through commissions paid to MWR by the hotels.

According to Deborah K. Solomon, Recreation Programmer, “This program is a win/win for travelers and for MWR. The revenue from each preferred hotel booking comes right back into our MWR fund, which assures continued quality of life programs for the entire workforce of Arsenal Island.”

Currently there are six hotels enrolled in the program: the Clarion Hotel in Davenport, the Hampton Inn in Moline, the Holiday Inn Express in Moline, the Holiday Inn of Bettendorf, the Holiday Inn of Davenport, the Holiday Inn of Moline, and the Lodge in Bettendorf. MWR is working with other local hotels to add them to the list.

All organizations hosting PCS and TDY travelers are asked to have them contact the MWR Lodging Office at 782-0833. The office will provide the non-availability number and the contact information for the hotels. By going through the Lodging Office, RIA can capture the data on the use of the program and the demands for PCS and TDY billeting. This information could lead to justification for greater on-post transient billeting.

Arsenal assists waiting families through support group

The Rock Island Arsenal held its first meeting Saturday, Feb. 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the island's Arsenal Club of a support group designed for families and loved ones separated by deployment or facing upcoming deployments.

Approximately 50 people attended. Many attendees were from throughout the Quad Cities but some were from as far away as Dubuque, Iowa, and Cambridge, Illinois. Many were spouses of personnel already deployed, and some were spouses or couples waiting for deployment. There were also several sets of parents of deployed personnel.

Col. Mike Mullins, commander of Rock Island Arsenal, welcomed the group by stating, "You are all now a part of our Rock Island Arsenal family, and we are all here to support you through these difficult times."

According to Penny Dixon, head of RIA Army Community Service, "The purpose of this support group is to provide assistance and services to families with a loved one who has recently been deployed to protect and defend our country. This includes active duty military and civilians from all services and members of the Reserves and National Guard. We are here to help all of these families through these trying times – to answer their questions, provided needed services, and to help them meet their emotional challenges."

Attendees listened to several presentations about Arsenal services and visited tables set up by service providers. Gary Shivers from the American Red Cross, Quad Cities Chapter, distributed information about their Treasures for Troops program and the emergency contact services that they provide for deployed personnel.

Attendees also listened to a presentation by Diana DeMeyer, from Arsenal Army Community Services, about how to survive and even thrive during a deployment separation. She encouraged everyone to look at the positive aspects of a separation: the opportunities to gain maturity, independence and flexibility; and the opportunities to strengthen the family bonds and to pull together. She also discussed how best to deal with children during these difficult times.

RIA services that will be available to these families include the Community Counseling Center, morale phone calls and video teleconferencing services, Inspector General services, Chaplains services, the Fitness Center, the Outdoor Recreation Office, the Auto Craft Shop, the Ticketing & Registration office, the Arsenal Food Court and catering services, the

RIA Museum, Children and Youth Services, legal services, tax and financial services, and the Army Education Center. Other Arsenal services that were discussed that apply only to the military and their families were the Health Clinic and Pharmacy, the commissary, Post Exchange, and military identification cards.

Attendees also completed a needs assessment. Future meetings and services will be scheduled based upon these needs assessments.

The next meeting is planned for March 22 at 10:00. Individuals interested in information and/or in attending any future meetings may call (309) 782-4357 or 0829. Free childcare will be provided for all meetings.

More information on Army Community Services can be found at www.riamwr.com.

Support our troops

There are various methods to send support to our troops and civilians overseas:

Donate a calling card to help keep servicemembers in touch with their families at Operation Uplink at www.operationuplink.org.

Send a greetings and messages via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at www.anyservicemember.navy.mil or www.OperationDearAbby.net. Sign a virtual thank you card at the Defend America: www.defendamerica.mil at the web site www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html.

Make a donation to one of the military relief societies: www.aerhq.org/links.htm:

Army Emergency Relief at www.aerhq.org Navy/Marine Relief Society at www.nmcrs.org. Air Force Aid Society at www.afas.org. Coast Guard Mutual Assistance at www.cgmahq.org.

Donate to "Operation USO Care Package" at <http://www.usometrodc.org/care.html>.

Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at www.redcross.org/services/afes/.

Volunteer at a Veterans Hospital: www.va.gov/vetsday/

You are asked not to flood the military mail system with letters, cards, and gifts. Due to security concerns and transportation constraints, the Department of Defense cannot accept items to be mailed to "Any Servicemember."

If you want to put care packages together for the troops or civilians overseas contact the American Red Cross to help with their Treasures for Troops program. The phone number of the local Quad Cities Chapter of the American Red Cross is 743-2166.

February was African American Heritage Month

A Proclamation By the President of the United States of America (EXERPT)

African Americans have played central roles in some of the most triumphant and courageous moments in our Nation's history. During National African American History Month, we honor the rich heritage of African Americans and pay tribute to their many contributions to our Nation. As we celebrate this year's theme, "The Souls of Black Folk: Centennial Reflections," we remember the successes and challenges of our past. We also resolve to honor the achievements and legacy of these proud citizens by continuing to improve our society so that it fully lives up to our founding ideals.

In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson recognized the need for our country to gain a more complete and informed understanding of our past. He founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and established the first Negro History Week to emphasize that "We have a wonderful history behind us . . . " Through the pioneering efforts of Dr. Woodson and the hard work of the Association, this observance officially became Black History Month in 1976.

For generations, African Americans have strengthened our Nation by urging reforms, overcoming obstacles, and breaking down barriers. We see the greatness of America in those who have risen above injustice and enriched our society, a

greatness reflected in the resolve of Jackie Robinson, the intellect of W.E.B. DuBois, and the talent of Louis Armstrong. We also gain a deeper appreciation for the African American experience in the writings of James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and Zora Neal Hurston, as well as in the music of Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, and countless others.

African Americans reflect a proud legacy of courage and dedication that has helped to guide our Nation's success and prosperity. Visionary leaders like Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King, Jr., possessed a clarity of purpose and were instrumental in exposing and addressing the issues that threatened our founding principles. The battle for freedom, equality, and opportunity was fought on the front lines by strong figures such as Harriet Tubman and Fannie Lou Hamer, as well as many other everyday heroes who helped to lead this Nation to a more hopeful and just society.

As we recall these remarkable individuals, we also recognize that, despite our progress, racial prejudice still exists in America. As a Nation and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it. By promoting diversity, understanding, and opportunity, we will continue our efforts to build a society where every person, of every race, can realize the promise of America.

Michael P. Anderson, 43, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, was a former instructor pilot and tactical officer, and a veteran of one spaceflight.

He served as Payload Commander and Mission Specialist 3 for STS-107. As payload commander he was responsible for the success (management) of the science mission aboard STS-107.

Anderson received a bachelor of science in physics/astronomy from University of Washington in 1981 and a master of science in physics from Creighton University in 1990.

Anderson, as a member of the Blue Team, worked with the following experiments: European Space Agency Advanced Respiratory Monitoring System (ARMS);



Combustion Module (CM-2), which included the Laminar Soot Processes (LSP), Water Mist Fire Suppression (MIST) and Structures of Flame Balls at Low Lewis-number (SOFBALL) experiments; Mediterranean Israeli Dust

Experiment (MEIDEX); Mechanics of Granular Materials (MGM); and the Physiology and Biochemistry Team (PhAB4) suite of experiments, which included Calcium Kinetics, Latent Virus Shedding, Protein Turnover and Renal Stone Risk..

Selected by NASA in December 1994, Anderson flew on STS-89 in 1998 - the eighth Shuttle-Mir docking mission. Prior to STS-107, Anderson logged over 211 hours in space.

EEO

782-2548

Celebrate Women's History this month

Kalpana Chawla, 41, was an aerospace engineer and an FAA Certified Flight Instructor. Chawla served as Flight Engineer and Mission Specialist 2 for STS-107.

She received a bachelor of science in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College, India, in 1982, a master of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas-Arlington in 1984, and a doctorate in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado-Boulder in 1988.

As a member of the Red Team, Chawla, with CDR Rick Husband, was responsible for maneuvering Columbia as part of several experiments in the shuttle's payload bay.

Chawla also worked with the following experiments: Astroculture (AST); Advanced Protein Crystal Facility (APCF); Commercial Protein Crystal Growth (CPCG_PCF); Biotechnology Demonstration System (BDS); ESA Biopack (eight experiments); Combustion Module (CM-2), which included the Laminar Soot Processes (LSP), Water Mist Fire Suppression (MIST) and Structures of Flame Balls at Low Lewisnumber (SOFBALL) experiments; Mechanics of Granular Materials (MGM); Vapor Compression Distillation Flight Experiment (VCD FE); and the Zeolite Crystal Growth Furnace (ZCG).



Selected by NASA in December 1994, Chawla was the prime robotic arm operator on STS-87 in 1997, the fourth U.S. Microgravity Payload flight. STS-87 focused on how the weightless environment of space affects various physical processes. Prior to STS-107, Chawla logged more than 376 hours in space.

Women's History Month, March 2003

A Proclamation by the President of the United States (excerpt)

As our Founding Fathers worked to develop the framework of our Nation, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband: "I long to hear that you have declared an independency — and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors." An early advocate of women's rights, a farm and financial manager, and the mother of an American President, John Quincy Adams, Abigail Adams is one of many American women who helped establish the strength and vitality of our Nation. During Women's History Month, we recognize the generations of American women whose important contributions continue to shape our Nation and enrich our society.

Through vision, hard work, and determination, countless American women have broadened opportunities for themselves and for others at home, in the community, and in the workplace. In 1809, Mary Kies became the first woman to receive a U.S. patent. By developing a method of weaving straw with silk, she helped advance American industry and set an inspiring example for other American women. Her pioneering efforts helped define our country's entrepreneurial spirit and paved the way for future generations of women to take pride in their talents and creativity.

Since Mary Kies' groundbreaking achievement, many American women have become successful entrepreneurs and business professionals. In 1905, Madam C.J. Walker started her own business by creating and selling hair care products for African-

American women. After a decade, her company was highly successful and employed more than 3,000 people, and at the time, was the largest African-American owned business in the United States. Today, Madam Walker is remembered for her business accomplishments, efforts to create new opportunities for women, and for her contributions to her community.

Driven by the legacy of these extraordinary figures, American women from all backgrounds continue to break barriers and fulfill their personal and professional potential. At the dawn of the 21st century, women have more choices than ever before. Between 1992 and 2002, the number of female college graduates in the United States has increased from 15.9 million to 23.6 million. Women account for 47 percent of all employed persons and are entering the American workforce in record numbers. In the last 10 years, their ranks have increased by 8.7 million. Furthermore, women-owned small businesses are growing twice as fast as all other U.S. firms, employing 7 million Americans and contributing to the vitality of our economy. To build on these successes, my Administration will continue our work to promote policies that advance the aspirations, hopes, and dreams of every American.

This month, as we celebrate remarkable women in our Nation's past, I encourage all citizens to recognize the countless American women whose efforts continue to enhance the economic, social, and cultural life of our great Nation.

March Arsenal Announcements

Motor Vehicle Decals are now required. Vehicles without decals will be subject to **100% vehicle inspection.**

Call 782-2872 for vehicle registration information.

Call 782-8016 for Law Enforcement information.

Waiting Families Support Group: March 22. 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

This meeting is for the families and loved ones of all services active duty, National Guard, Reserves and civilian in the area that have deployed personnel. Free childcare will be provided. Call 782-4357 for information.

Rebuilding Class: Beginning March 26, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

EAP Conference/Training Room in Bldg 110. This 10 week course is designed to help those who have suffered loss through the death of a spouse/significant other or divorce. Participants must use annual leave to attend. Call 782-2555.

Island Newcomers Orientation: March 27, 8:00 a.m.

Contact Army Community Services, 782-0829 or debatesl@ria.army.mil.

Rally at the Rock: March 28, Arsenal Club, 3:30 p.m. until ?.

Call 782-6319 for information.

The Fitness Center will start taking **Blood Profile appointments on April 3 at 7:00 a.m.**

Appointments will start on May 6.

Softball Leagues: begin May 5.

Call 782-5124 or 6787 for information.

RESUMIX and Army Résumé Builder - Classes on Videotapes

Available from the Army Community Service (ACS) Library in Building 110, 1st Floor, Southeast corner. It is open duty days from 7 AM until 4:30 PM.

Toastmasters International

1st Wed. of each month, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Corps of Engineers Clock Tower

3rd Wed. of each month, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., CPOC Training Room, Bldg. 102.

Call 794-5378 or 794-5507 for more information.

Chapel open for Prayer on Wednesdays.

Private prayer between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the chapel (basement, bldg. 56).

Group prayer between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in the annex. (basement, bldg 56).

Health Clinic Hours:

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. by appointment only.

Pharmacy hours: Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. The Pharmacy is closed daily for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m. Call 782-0802 in advance if you need laboratory work.

Smoking (and tobacco chewing) Cessation Classes

Every Tuesday, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., building 110, first floor, southeast wing. This is an on-going program. Call 782-4357 to enroll.

Military Pay and Finance/ Military Legal Assistance and Claims Office Move

New location: Building 90, second floor, room 22.

New fax number: 309-782-3406 or DSN 793-3406.

The phone has remained the same at 309-782-1443 or 1444.

Outdoor Recreation Garden Plot Program

\$15.00 for a 20' x 20' plot. Registration has begun. Call 782-8630.